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Process for the preparation of esters of (meth)-acrylic acid, and their use.

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Abstract

1. A process for preparing an ester of acrylic or methacrylic acid with a hydroxyl-containing organic compound, which comprises esterifying a saturated polyester which contains no fewer than 2 free hydroxyl groups per molecule and may contain ether groups or a saturated polyether which contains no fewer than 2 free hydroxyl groups per molecule, this polyester or polyether having an average molecular weight M_n of from 400 to 4,000, with from 100 to 150 mol %, based on the OH groups of the polyester or polyether, of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid in the presence of an acidic esterification catalyst and one or more hydrocarbons forming an azeotropic mixture with water and a small amount of a polymerization inhibitor at elevated temperature with azeotropic removal of the resulting water, after the esterification removing the hydrocarbon by distillation and after neutralization of the esterification catalyst reacting the remaining acrylic or methacrylic acid with an amount, equivalent to the acid number, of an epoxy compound having no fewer than two epoxy groups per molecule until an acid number ≤ 5 mg of KOH/g is obtained.

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